

HB 3532 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Historical Society to make a list of offensive geographic names and recommended non-offensive names to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, no later than three years following the effective date.

Detailed Summary

- Defines ‘offensive’ means offensive or derogatory to Oregon’s nine federally recognized Indian tribes, or to any race, nationality or ethnicity.
- Requires Society to compile a list of highways and geographic features that bear offensive names; defines geographic features.
- Requires Society to begin a process to identify new names for highways and geographic locations; consult with others on process; identifies entities for consultation; requires consultation with leaders and representatives only in respect to highways and geographic features within the jurisdiction they represent.
- Requires the Society to submit their proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names no later than three years following the effective date.
- Repeals act on January 2, 2029.
- Declares emergency, takes effect upon passage.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background information about the purpose of the bill and personal stories about the impact of offensive place names
- Questions about private land and how place name changes would impact property owners, including cost

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure.

- Defines “interested party” as an individual or entity with a right to property that may be affected by a change of name.
- Defines “offensive” meaning offensive or derogatory to Oregon’s nine federally recognized Indian tribes, or to any race, nationality, or ethnicity.
- Requires Society to compile a list of highways and geographic features that bear offensive names; defines geographic features.
- Requires Society to begin a process to identify new names for highways and geographic locations; consult with others on process; identifies entities for consultation including interested parties; requires consultation with leaders and representatives only in respect to highways and geographic features within the jurisdiction they represent.
- Requires the Society to submit their proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names no later than three years following the effective date.

BACKGROUND:

In 1911, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) recognized the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) as the official advisor and state geographic names authority of Oregon. In 1959, Governor Hatfield transferred the administration of the OGNB from state government to the Oregon Historical Society. The purpose of the OGNB is to supervise the naming of geographic features within the state of Oregon and to make recommendations to the USBGN, which has final approval authority. The Board also serves in an advisory capacity to federal, State, and local government by reviewing administrative name proposals.

PRELIMINARY